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Office for Information  
Technology Policy

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# ALA American Library Association

April 28, 1997

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 222  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation

CC Docket No: 96-45, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

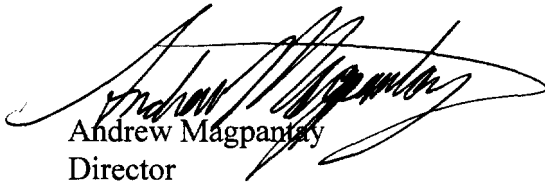
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Caton:

Members of the Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC) met today with Commissioner Rachelle Chong to discuss issues relating to the schools and libraries portion of Universal Service. EdLiNC representatives included: Kari Arfstrom (American Association of School Administrators), Jeff Burnett (National Association of Independent Schools), Sally Shake (Education Legislative Services, Inc.), Sally McConnell (National Association of Elementary School Principals), Leslie Harris (Consortium for School Networking/ International Society for Technology in Education) and Andrew Magpantay (American Library Association). During the meeting, EdLiNC gave the attached materials to Commissioner Chong for her review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 202/628 8421.

Sincerely,



Andrew Magpantay  
Director  
Office for Information Technology Policy  
American Library Association

Enclosure

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Date: April 21, 1997  
To: USA Today

**Make public access to Internet a reality, not fantasy**  
by LeVar Burton

Thousands of Americans recently joined in the second national NetDay (April 19), a national effort endorsed by President Clinton to connect libraries and schools to the Internet. These volunteers invested their time and energy for good reason:

They understand and believe in the growing importance of the Internet as a tool that opens up new worlds of information for education, business, health and other needs. And they know that without public access to the Internet at schools and libraries, many Americans will never travel to this new frontier of information and communication.

Schools and public libraries can and should be critical links to the Internet for people of all ages. Research shows only about a fifth of U.S. families now have Internet access in their homes. For those who can't afford computers and online charges, their school or public library is a natural access point.

Supported largely by tax dollars, libraries are the heart of our nation's information infrastructure. They provide books, encyclopedias and other resources to people of all ages and backgrounds. Providing access to electronic information is a natural extension of this role. And librarians are there to help us use the Internet and make wise choices about the wealth of information available.

But libraries and schools need more than computers and wiring to connect their communities. According to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, less than a third of the nation's public libraries are now able to offer direct public access to the Internet. The main barrier? Most libraries, especially those in more remote areas, can't afford the high cost of long distance and other telecommunications charges. Only 14 percent of school classrooms are connected to the Internet.

Relief is in sight but only if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acts promptly to ensure deep discounts on telecommunications charges. The Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerrey Amendment to the Telecommunications Act passed by Congress last year designates libraries and schools as universal providers eligible for discounts on telecommunications rates. The FCC is expected to announce in early May how large the discounts will be and to what services they will apply.

These discounts are desperately needed if our nation's libraries and schools are to get on with the urgent business of providing the public with on-line connections. For the nation's most profitable industry, these discounts are an small investment in increased consumer exposure that can potentially add to their profits.

It's up to the FCC to turn Congress's good intentions into reality. This is not an issue that should be put off or allowed to become the victim of industry in-fighting. The future is now. Sixty percent of the jobs created by the year 2000 will require Americans to be computer literate. Without significant discounts for schools and libraries, 21st century information technology will remain a science fiction fantasy for millions of children and adults.

####

LeVar Burton is a member of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and host of the PBS television series, "Reading Rainbow." He also stars in the TV series "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and is the author of "Aftermath," a science fiction novel.

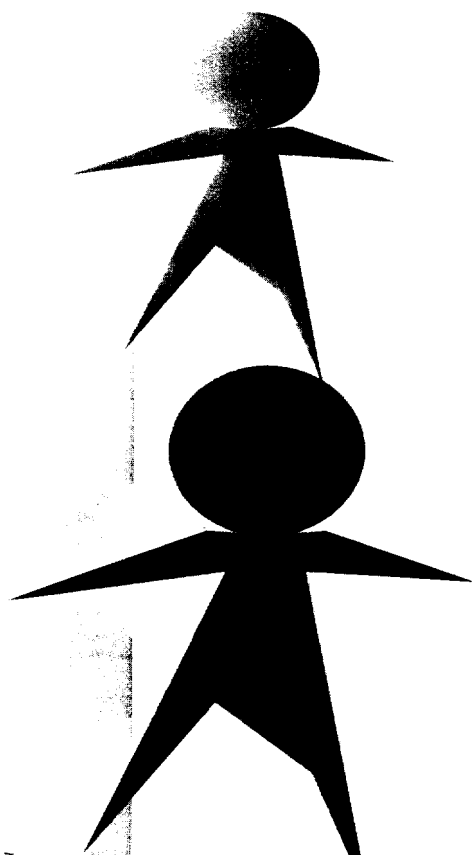
# Get Connected to Learning Using the Internet

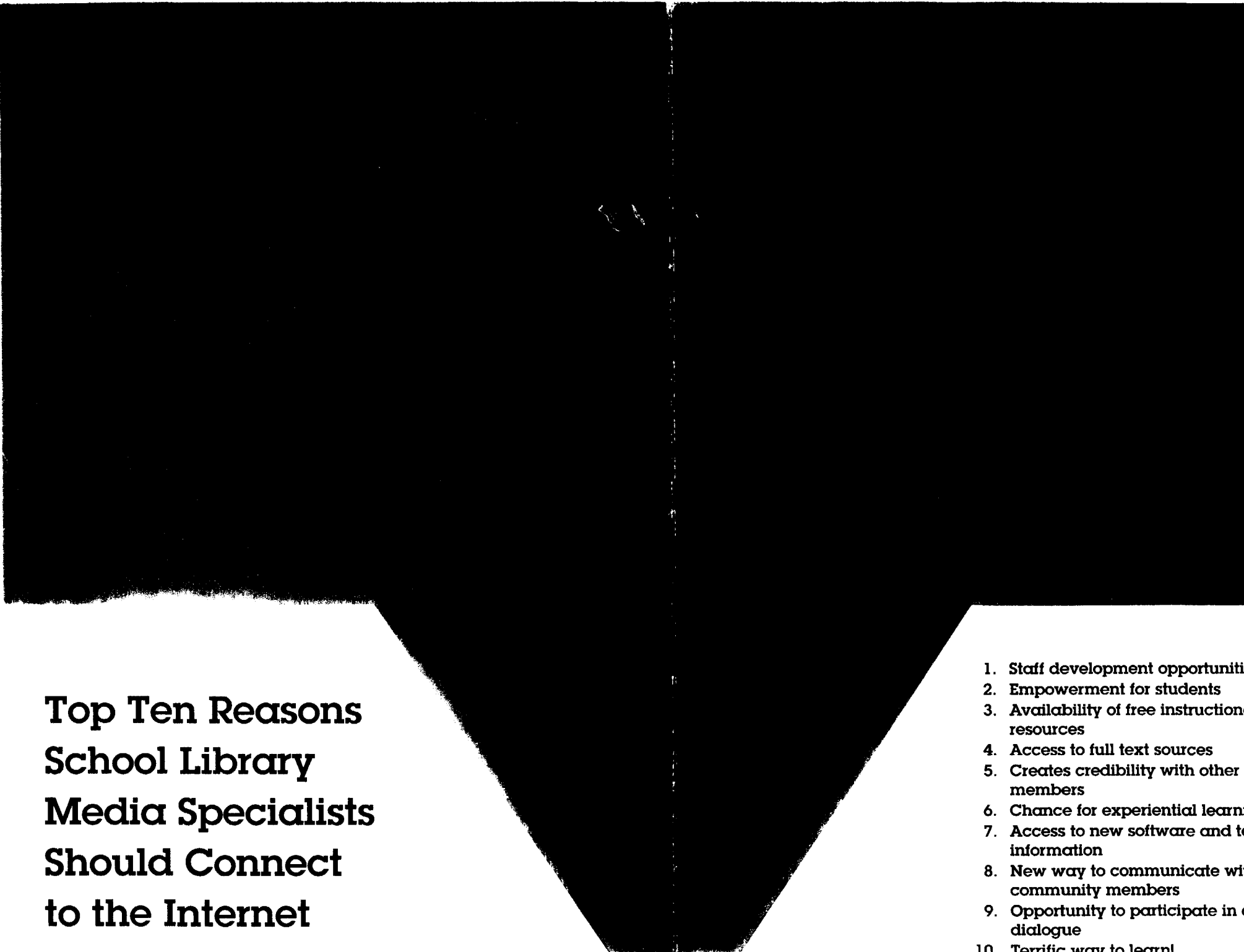


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# **Top Ten Reasons School Library Media Specialists Should Connect to the Internet**

1. Staff development opportunities
2. Empowerment for students
3. Availability of free instructional resources
4. Access to full text sources
5. Creates credibility with other faculty members
6. Chance for experiential learning
7. Access to new software and technical information
8. New way to communicate with community members
9. Opportunity to participate in a global dialogue
10. Terrific way to learn!

# Sponsors

## **ICONnect Sponsors**

*(committed \$5,000 per year for three years)*

**EBSCO Publishing**

**Facts on File, Inc.**

**Gale Research Publications**

**The H.W. Wilson Foundation**

**SIRS/Mandarin**

**Primary Source Media**

**Winnebago Software Company**

## **ICONnect Contributors**

*(committed \$2,500 per year for three years)*

**Linworth Publishing Company**

# What is ICONnect?

**ICONnect**, a technology initiative of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is designed to get students, library media specialists and teachers connected to learning using the Internet.

**ICONnect** resources will:

- help students to develop the information and visual literacy skills that they need to be productive citizens
- provide library media specialists and teachers with training to navigate the Internet effectively and to develop and use meaningful curriculum connections with teachers and students.

Sign up to participate in **ICONnect** and you will receive information about:

## **ICONnect's Gopher and Home Page**

Sign-up to participate in **ICONnect** and receive information about how to access the initiative's Gopher and Home Page. Both resources are gateways to information about technology and education.

Gopher Address: ericir.syr.edu 7070

Gopher URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:7070/

Home Page Address: <http://ericir.syr.edu/ICONN/ihome.html>

**Design and development of the ICONnect Web and Gopher sites, ICONnect listservs and the KidsConnect distributed network is provided by AskERIC, the Internet based education information service of the ERIC system, headquartered at the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information and Technology at Syracuse University.**

*(continued on back)*

## What is ICONnect? *(continued)*

### Curriculum Connections

Learn more about the curriculum connections you can make on the Internet through this component's virtual learning community and Internet pathways.

### On-Line Courses

**ICONnect's** on-line courses on Internet basics will be geared specifically for K-12 school library media specialists with curriculum threads woven in for course takers to follow.

Broad areas will offer examples of how the Internet can be used in collaborative projects within the curriculum and will provide a jumping off point for the school library media specialist.

**ICONnect** on-line courses will begin in September 1995 and will be offered via an **ICONnect** Listserv.

### KidsConnect

KidsConnect is **ICONnect's** question-answering, help and referral service for kids on the Internet. Library media specialists from throughout the country are collaborating on KidsConnect to provide direct assistance to any student who needs help. Through E-mail, students can contact a library media specialist for guidance and instruction and receive an answer within 48 hours. So, kids are not left to fend for themselves on the Internet. Whenever they need help, guidance or instruction.....KidsConnect!

### Mini-Grants

Mini-grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to library media specialists and classroom teachers who work together to develop curriculum-related projects that focus on the Internet as an information resource.



# What is the Internet?

The Internet is a network of networks, a vast collection of large and small interconnected computer networks extending around the world. But it is not just a collection of computers and cables. It is also a network of services and resources, a library, a database and a community of people from around the world eager to share, listen and learn from each other.

The Internet, which began in early 1969 under the name ARPANet (Advanced Research Projects Agency) consisted of a small group of military institutions and universities that needed to share their computerized research data in a timely fashion and demonstrate the feasibility of building networks using computers dispersed over a wide area. By 1972, 50 universities and research facilities had connections. In the 1980s, the National Science Foundation developed a special network connecting its five super computer centers. This network NSFNET is the backbone of the Internet in the United States.

The Internet allows researchers to share data and publications. For example, when the discovery of cold fusion was announced in 1991, scientists announced it via conferences on the Internet. Immediate and around the clock interactive, global discussion was started. The Internet allows students in locations all around the globe a chance to collaborate on special school projects, such as "do science" with researchers in the Arctic region. It allows kids to look at graphics of the Dead Sea scrolls on file in the Library of Congress or download weather-satellite photos of their region. It brings the world of information into the school library media center, giving students an opportunity to share their experiences, opinions and information and provides a way to create resources and share them instantly with millions of people around the world.

The growth of the Internet is staggering: in 1981, there were 213 computers connected, 1991, 376,000 computers were connected, 1992, 727,000 computers were connected and in 1995 over 1 million computers were connected!

# Internet Resources

**The titles listed in this brief bibliography may provide you with information to help you as you navigate the Information Superhighway!**

Alspach, Ted. *Internet E-Mail Quick Tour*. Chapel Hill, NC: Ventana Press, 1995.

Badgett, Tom and Sandle, Corey. *Welcome to the Internet: From Mystery to Mastery*. New York: MIS Press, 1993.

Benson, Allen C. *The Complete Internet Companion for Librarians*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 1994.

Branwyn, Gareth. *Mosaic Quick Tour*. Chapel Hill, NC: Ventana Press, 1994.

Cavazos, Edward and Garvino, Morin. *Cyberspace and the Law: Your Rights and Duties in the On-Line World*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1995.

*Classroom Connect*. Educator's Internet Companion. Lancaster, PA: Wenworth World Wide Media, Inc., 1995.

Dern, Daniel P. *The Internet Guide for New Users*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994.

*The Educator's Guide to the Internet*, 2nd ed. Hampton, VA: Virginia Space Grant Consortium, 1995.

Ellsworth, Jill H. *Educator on the Internet*. Indiana: Sams Publishing, 1994.

Engle, Mary E., Marilyn Lutz, William W. Jones, Jr., Genevieve Engel, eds. *Internet Connections: A Librarian's Guide to Dial-Up Access and Use*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1993.

Estrada, Susan. *Connecting to the Internet: A Buyer's Guide*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly, 1994.

Fraase, Michael. *The Mac Internet Tour Guide: Cruising the Internet the Easy Way*. Chapel Hill, NC: Ventana Press, 1993.

## Internet Resources *(continued)*

Glistler, Paul. *The Mosaic Navigator: The Essential Guide to the Internet Interface*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1994.

Graham, Ian S. (1995). *The HTML Sourcebook*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1995.

Hahn, Harley and Rick Strut. *The Internet Complete Reference*. Berkley, CA: Osborne McGraw-Hill, 1994.

Harris, Judi. *Way of the Ferret: Finding Educational Resources on the Internet* (rev. ed.) Eugene, OR: International Society for Technology in Education, 1994.

Joseph, Linda. *World Link: An Internet Guide for Educators, Parents and Students*. Ohio: Greyden Press, 1995.

Krol, Ed. *The Whole Internet User's Guide and Catalog* (2nd ed.). Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly, 1994.

Miller, Elizabeth. *The Internet Resource Directory for K-12 Teachers and Librarians: 1994-95*. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1994.

Simpson, Carol Mann. *Internet for Library Media Specialists*. Ohio: Linworth Publishing, Inc., 1995.

# ICONnect Mini-Grants



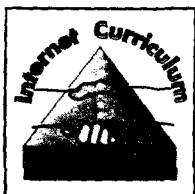
**Collaborative teams of AASL members and classroom teachers can apply for \$500 ICONnect mini-grants that encourage the use of Internet resources to develop meaningful curriculum connections.**

The school library media specialist applying for a mini-grant must be a member of AASL and the mini-grant project must use Internet resources in the curriculum.

More information and a 1997 ICONnect mini-grant application form will be available by May 1996. Visit the ICONnect Home Page at <http://eric.syr.edu/ICONN/ihome.html> after February 15 to see the curriculum units that were developed by the 1996 mini-grant recipients.

To request a 1997 ICONnect mini-grant application, contact: [ICONnect@ala.org](mailto:ICONnect@ala.org).

# Curriculum Connections



By taking advantage of ICONnect's Curriculum Connections, you can move beyond the basics of Internet use and to the task of integrating Internet resources into the school curriculum.

## Curriculum Connections Virtual Learning

Two listservs have been set up to help AASL members learn more about navigating the Internet and integrating its resources into the curriculum. These listservs will allow you to participate in a virtual learning environment.

Membership in the American Library Association and American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and a knowledge of Internet basics (as offered in the IBASICS On-Line Course) are required to participate on both lists. If you have already completed the IBASICS course, you are ready to subscribe to these listservs. If you have not, you may wish to subscribe for the next session or review the lessons which are archived in the ICONnect Gopher and Home Page.

- For more help with Curriculum Connections on the Internet, subscribe to IGRAD\_CC, by sending a message to [listserv@serv.syr.edu](mailto:listserv@serv.syr.edu). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type: Subscribe IGRAD\_CC. You will receive a welcome message. Curriculum connections developed by graduate students will be posted to this list on a weekly basis. Subscribers will be encouraged to use them in their curriculum and share their experiences with the list.
- For more help with Internet technology and navigation, subscribe to TECHDISC, by sending a message to: [listserv@serv.syr.edu](mailto:listserv@serv.syr.edu). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type: Subscribe TECHDISC. You will receive a welcome message.

## Curriculum Connections Pathway

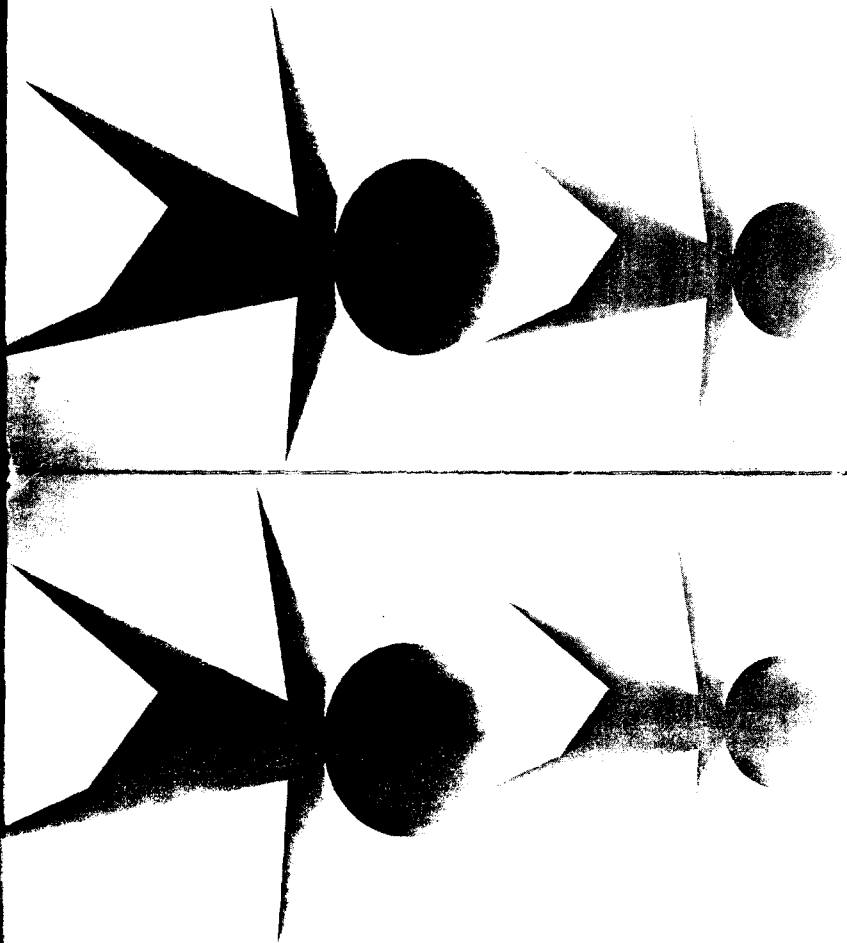
Explore the Curriculum Connections Pathway on the ICONnect Gopher and Home Page to learn about the top ten Internet K-12 curriculum areas and important Internet reference resources.

# Get Connected to Learning Using the Internet

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and Information

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